Construction of New Airports in Himachal Pradesh

9. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air services to Kullu, Kangra and Shimla are inadequate and no efforts have been made to increase the air services to these stations to promote tourism in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) whether Government propose to construct some more airports in Himachal Pradesh to give a boost and encouragement to the tourists to visit the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Operators are free to operate any place in their commercial judgement subject of course to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations in specified category of routes. However, at present Indian Airlines is operating 3 scheduled flights/week to/from Kullu, Kangra (Gaggal) and Shimla on the following routes:—

Delhi/Shimla/Kullu/Delhi
Delhi/Gaggal/Delhi

M/s Jagson Airlines Ltd. (a non-scheduled operator) also operate on Delhi/Kullu/Delhi; Delhi/Shimla/Delhi and Delhi/Gaggal/Delhi sectors depending upon traffic demand.

(b) No, Sir. However, Kangra (Gaggal) airport is being developed for operations of ATR-72 class of aircraft.

Poor condition of AI and IA Flights

†10. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services of Indian Airlines and Air India have been discontinued on many profitable routes due to poor condition of most of their aircrafts; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.